

Appl. No. 09/990,548
Amdt. Dated 04/14/2004
Reply to Office Action of 01/16/2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented): A passenger seat with privacy shell, comprising:
 - (a) a seat base;
 - (b) a seat bottom carried by the seat base;
 - (c) a seat back unit, including a headrest, pivotally-mounted on the seat base, wherein the seat back is mounted for pivotal movement about a first pivot at a first rate of movement;
 - (d) a recline unit for controlling movement of the seat back and locking the seat back in a desired recline position, and comprising an occupant-activated seat back recline control for permitting movement of the seat back to a desired position to and between an upright position and a recline position;
 - (e) a privacy shell positioned on opposing lateral sides of the seat back unit, wherein the privacy shell is concentrically mounted for movement about the first pivot at a second rate of movement different from the first rate of movement, the privacy shell extending around the seat back unit and mounted for movement between:
 - (i) a retracted position aft of a passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell permits unimpeded lateral vision by the passenger seated in the seat; and
 - (ii) a deployed position forward of the passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell impedes lateral observation of the passenger seated in the seat, thereby providing privacy when desired by the passenger.

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2. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell is mounted for movement with the seat back wherein the privacy shell is in the retracted position when the seat back is in its upright position and is in the deployed position when the seat back is in the recline position.

3. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell is mounted for progressive movement in coordination with the movement of the seat back.

4. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the seat back is mounted for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and the privacy shell is mounted for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot.

5. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the seat back is mounted for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and the privacy shell is mounted for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot and at a rate of movement different than the rate of movement of the seat back about the first pivot.

6. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the seat back is mounted for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and the privacy shell is mounted for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot and at the same rate of movement as the rate of movement of the seat back about the first pivot.

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7. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the seat back and the privacy shell are concentrically mounted for pivotal movement about a first pivot.

8. (Canceled):

9. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, and including an occupant-activated privacy shell control for permitting movement of the privacy shell to and between the retracted and deployed positions independent of the upright or recline position of the seat back.

10. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, and including load bearing slots positioned on opposing inner walls of the privacy shell and cooperating with complementary guide rollers carried by the seat back and mounted in a respective one of said slots for supporting the privacy shell while stationary and during movement.

11. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell includes an outer-facing hard shell and an inner-facing upholstered passenger interface surface.

12. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell includes a hood pivotally-mounted thereon and movable between an extended position forward of the privacy shell and a retracted position nested within the privacy shell.

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13. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell moves progressively from the retracted position to the deployed privacy position during movement of the seat back from the upright to the recline position.

14. (Original): A passenger seat according to claim 1, wherein the privacy shell moves progressively from the retracted position to the deployed privacy position during movement of the seat back from the upright to the recline position, and further wherein the seat back is moveable to intermediate positions to and between the upright and recline position with the privacy shell positioned in a privacy position intermediate the retracted and deployed positions.

15. (Previously Presented): A method of permitting a passenger in an aircraft passenger seat to vary the degree of privacy accorded the passenger by the seat; comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing:
 - (i) a seat base;
 - (ii) a seat bottom carried by the base;
 - (iii) a seat back unit, including a headrest, pivotally-mounted on the seat base for permitting the angle of the seat back relative to the seat bottom to be varied;
 - (iv) a recline unit for controlling movement of the seat back and locking the seat back in a desired recline position, and comprising an occupant-activated seat back recline control for permitting movement of the seat back to a desired position to

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and between an upright position and a recline position; and

(v) a privacy shell positioned on opposing lateral sides of the seat back unit and extending around the seat back unit;

(b) moving the privacy shell to a retracted position aft of a passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell permits unimpeded lateral vision by the passenger seated in the seat; and

(c) moving the privacy shell to a deployed position forward of the passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell impedes lateral observation of the passenger seated in the seat, thereby providing privacy when desired by the passenger; and

(d) mounting the seat back for pivotal movement about a first pivot at a first rate of movement, and mounting the privacy shell concentrically for movement about the first pivot at a second rate of movement different from the first rate of movement.

16. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of moving the privacy shell in coordination with the seat back wherein the privacy shell is in the retracted position when the seat back is in its upright position and is in the deployed position when the seat back is in the recline position.

17. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of moving the privacy shell in coordination with the movement of the seat back.

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18. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the steps of mounting the seat back for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and mounting the privacy shell for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot.

19. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the steps of mounting the seat back for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and mounting the privacy shell for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot and at a rate of movement different than the rate of movement of the seat back about the first pivot.

20. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the steps of mounting the seat back for pivotal movement about a first pivot, and mounting the privacy shell for pivotal movement about a second pivot non-concentric with the first pivot and at the same rate of movement as the rate of movement of the seat back about the first pivot.

21. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of mounting the seat back and the privacy shell for pivotal movement about a first pivot.

22. (Canceled):

23. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of controlling the movement of the privacy shell to and between the retracted and deployed positions independent of the upright or recline position of the seat back by means of an occupant-

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activated control.

24. (Original): A method according to claim 23, and including the step of supporting the privacy shell relative to the seat back by load bearing slots positioned on opposing inner walls of the privacy shell and cooperating with complementary rollers carried by the seat back and mounted in a respective one of said slots.

25. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the steps of providing the privacy shell with an outer-facing hard shell and an inner-facing upholstered passenger interface surface.

26. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of interfacing the occupant-activated seat back recline control with the privacy shell wherein the seat back and privacy shell are moved in unison coordination to and between the upright and recline positions.

27. (Canceled):

28. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the steps of moving the privacy shell progressively from the retracted position to the deployed privacy position during movement of the seat back from the upright to the recline position.

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29. (Original): A method according to claim 15, and including the step of moving the seat back to intermediate positions to and between the upright and recline position with the privacy shell positioned in a privacy position intermediate the retracted and deployed positions.

30. (Previously Presented): A passenger seat with privacy shell, comprising:

- (a) a seat base;
- (b) a seat bottom carried by the seat base;
- (c) a seat back unit, including a headrest, pivotally-mounted on the seat base;
- (d) a recline unit for controlling movement of the seat back and locking the seat back in a desired recline position, and comprising an occupant-activated seat back recline control for permitting movement of the seat back to a desired position to and between an upright position and a recline position;
- (e) a privacy shell positioned on opposing lateral sides of the seat back unit, extending around the seat back unit and mounted for movement between:
 - (i) a retracted position aft of a passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell permits unimpeded lateral vision by the passenger seated in the seat;
 - (ii) a deployed position forward of the passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell impedes lateral observation of the passenger seated in the seat, thereby providing privacy when desired by the passenger; and

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(f) an occupant-activated privacy shell control for permitting movement of the privacy shell to and between the retracted and deployed positions independent of the upright or recline position of the seat back.

31. (Previously Presented): A passenger seat with privacy shell, comprising:

- (a) a seat base;
- (b) a seat bottom carried by the seat base;
- (c) a seat back unit, including a headrest, pivotally-mounted on the seat base;
- (d) a recline unit for controlling movement of the seat back and locking the seat back in a desired recline position, and comprising an occupant-activated seat back recline control for permitting movement of the seat back to a desired position to and between an upright position and a recline position;
- (e) a privacy shell positioned on opposing lateral sides of the seat back unit, extending around the seat back unit and mounted for movement between:
 - (i) a retracted position aft of a passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell permits unimpeded lateral vision by the passenger seated in the seat;
 - (ii) a deployed position forward of the passenger support surface of the headrest wherein the shell impedes lateral observation of the passenger seated in the seat, thereby providing privacy when desired by the passenger; and
- (f) load bearing slots positioned on opposing inner walls of the privacy

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shell and cooperating with complementary guide rollers carried by the seat back and mounted in a respective one of said slots for supporting the privacy shell while stationary and during movement.